

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DOTE-00 /083 R

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R 220132Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 8542

1. UK EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT UK AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED
RUMSFELD 21 FEBRUARY TO REGISTER CONCERN OVER DRAFT EPA
NOISE PROPOSALS. AMBASSADOR PLANNING NO FURTHER ACTION AT

THIS TIME BUT MINISTER (SYKES) HAS APPOINTMENT WITH ENDERS
FOR 22 FEBRUARY. UK AND FRENCH COUNSELORS (GORDON-
CUMMING AND LANSALOT-BASOU) CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NSC AND CIEP TO MAKE
PROTEST AT THOSE LEVELS.

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2. EPA PROPOSED REGULATION ON NOISE REQUIREMENTS FOR SST'S HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EPA'S RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE NOISE CONTROL ACT OF 1972. COPIES OF THE EPA PROPOSALS POUCHED FEB 13 FOR EMBASSY INFO.

3. EPA HAS NOT YET DELIVERED PROPOSALS TO FAA. AFTER THIS OCCURS NOTICE OF TRANSMITTAL WILL APPEAR IN FEDERAL REGISTER AND DOCUMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. (DEPT WILL NOTIFY POST AS SOON AS WE ASCERTAIN WHEN DOCUMENT LIKELY TO BECOME PUBLIC.) PUBLIC

HEARINGS MUST BE HELD BY FAA WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF FULL TEXT OF PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING THE HEARINGS, FAA IS REQUIRED TO ISSUE THE FINAL RULE AS PROPOSED BY EPA, OR A MODIFICATION THEREOF, WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, OR TO PUBLISH ITS REASONS FOR NOT DOING SO.

4. COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL PROVIDE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO HOST GOVTS, MANUFACTURERS, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL RULE.

5. EPA BELIEVES THIS ACTION CANNOT BE DELAYED. FIRST, EPA AND FAA ARE BEING SUED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND TO COMPEL ACTION ON SST NOISE RULES AND THIS CASE WILL COME UP FOR FURTHER PROCEEDINGS LATER THIS MONTH. SECOND, EPA AND FAA ARE UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM CONGRESS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO SST NOISE. COPIES OF DRAFT REGULATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED TO RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BY EPA AS REQUIRED BY INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EPA AND SENATOR MUSKIE.

6. THIS ACTION IS DISTINCT FROM EIS FAA IS PREPARING IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS. BRITISH AND FRENCH PLANS TO OPERATE ENDURANCE FLIGHTS BASED ON FOREIGN CERTIFICATION PENDING THE ISSUANCE OF OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS OR A GENERAL NOISE RULE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS WOULD STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE TO BE ISSUED FOR CONCORDE TO BEGIN COMMERCIAL SERVICES. OF COURSE, LOCAL AIRPORT JURISDICTION COULD BLOCK EITHER ENDURANCE OR COMMERCIAL SERVICES. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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